AMENDMENTS TO THE DRAWINGS:

The drawings have been amended by the addition of a new Fig. 8 which shows that the disk and the chain are circular.

REMARKS

Reconsideration of the present application is respectfully requested.

In the presently claimed invention, the part 22 ("projecting part") of each driving link that projects radially inwards is loosely inserted between two adjacent radial projections 20 of the grooves when the chain is in a neutral position (not driven). That feature facilitates the mounting of the chain and eliminates the need for having removable side plates to replace chains.

Original claim 1, which recited that "loose" feature, was rejected over Carlton. However, Carlton's chain is not disclosed as being loose. In that regard, the drawings show no gaps whatever between the anchor portions 28 and the grooves or gullies 18. Clearly the replacement of chains would not be facilitated by such a mounting.

Nevertheless, claim 1 has been amended to describe the "loose" feature by reciting that with the chain and the disk being concentric in the neutral (non-driven) position, the radius r_{id} is greater than the radius r_{sb}. Thus, a space would be formed between the radially innermost portions of the groove bottom 18 and the radially innermost portions of the respective link parts 22, as shown in Fig. 2. That feature is neither disclosed nor taught by Carlton. In fact, Carlton would oppose any modification of his saw blade to provide such looseness. In that regard, on page 5 of the Official Action, Carlton is characterized as follows:

> "...and the driving link has a cam surface 88 on the part 78a that projects radially inwards for interaction with the respective radial projection 86, and in that the chain 76 can move from a neutral position, in which the chain is loosely mounted around the circumference of the disk 70 and the part 78a of the respective driving link 78 that projects inwards is loosely inserted between two adjacent radial projections 86, to a working position, in which the chain is tensioned around the circumference of the disk

> 70 and the cam surface 88 on the respective driving link is in contact with the associated radial projection 86 per Fig. 5."

Contrary to that assertion, nowhere in Carlton is the item 88 described as a cam surface. In fact, the item 88 is referred to as a "catch portion" of a link which engages a catch portion" 86 of a sprocket tooth for "preventing radially outward displacement of the anchor links" (see column 4, lines 7-16). Thus, Carlton seeks to prevent the very result being achieved by the presently claimed invention. Any attempt to create looseness in Carlton's chain would be contrary to Carlton's provision of catch portions.

Accordingly, it is submitted that claim 1 and dependent claims 2-10 are allowable.

Regarding new dependent claim 11, it is noted that in the present invention, the connecting links 8 are spaced radially outwardly with respect to radially outermost portions of the radial projections 20 of the groove 14, as shown in each of Figs. 2 and 3.

In contrast, the Carlton patent discloses an arrangement in which the teeth (projections) 16 extend radially outwardly well past the radially inner portions of the side links 30 (which correspond to the connecting links of the presently claimed invention), wherein those links 30 straddle the teeth (see Carlton, column 3, lines 10-13).

Accordingly, it is submitted that claim 11 is allowable for that reason.

In view of the above amendments and remarks, the Examiner is respectfully requested to reconsider and withdraw the outstanding rejections.

In the event that there are any questions concerning this Amendment, or the application in general, the Examiner is respectfully urged to telephone the undersigned attorney so that prosecution of the application may be expedited.

Respectfully submitted,

BUCHANAN INGERSOLL & ROONEY PC

Date: August 26, 2008

By: _____
Alan E. Kopecki
Registration No. 25813

Customer No. 21839
703 836 6620

Attachment: New Fig. 8